Golden Quadrilateral Project

*532. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the "Golden Quadrilateral Project" for highways;

(b) the allocation made for this purpose for the year 2002-2003; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The progress made in Golden Quadrilateral Project is as under:

Total Length	—	**5846 km**
Already 4-laned	—	1069 km
Under implementation	—	4693 km
Balance of civil work yet to be awarded	—	84 km

(b) The allocation on the Golden Quadrilateral Project for the year 2002-2003 is Rs. 6942 crores.

(c) The original date for completion of Golden Quadrilateral was December, 2004. The Project is now targeted for substantial completion by December, 2003.

Janata PCs

*533. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for providing something like Janata PCs at affordable price to the people; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Goodwill Mission to Afghanistan

*534. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to send a goodwill mission to Afghanistan to establish people to people contact to rebuild old relations and confidence;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) whether the mission would be official or unofficial?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) As part of commitment to strengthen our multifaceted ties with the people and government of Afghanistan, Government of India has maintained active interaction with the Interim Administration of Afghanistan. Several Ministers in the Afghan Interim Administration have visited India. H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai himself visited India on 26-27 February 2002. Government has also provided extensive humanitarian and other assistance to the Interim Administration of Afghanistan.

Some Indian non-governmental organizations have also expressed keenness to contribute to the reconstruction effort in Afghanistan. Government would encourage all efforts which strengthen people to people relationship, as also contribute to economic and social rehabilitation.

GDP Growth Rate

*535. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a fact that GDP growth during the Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997—2002) would be average 5.4 per cent as compared to 6.7 per cent during Eighth Five Year Plan,